Domestic Girlfriend
kc
KODANSHA COMICS
CHAPTER 177
KEI SASUGA

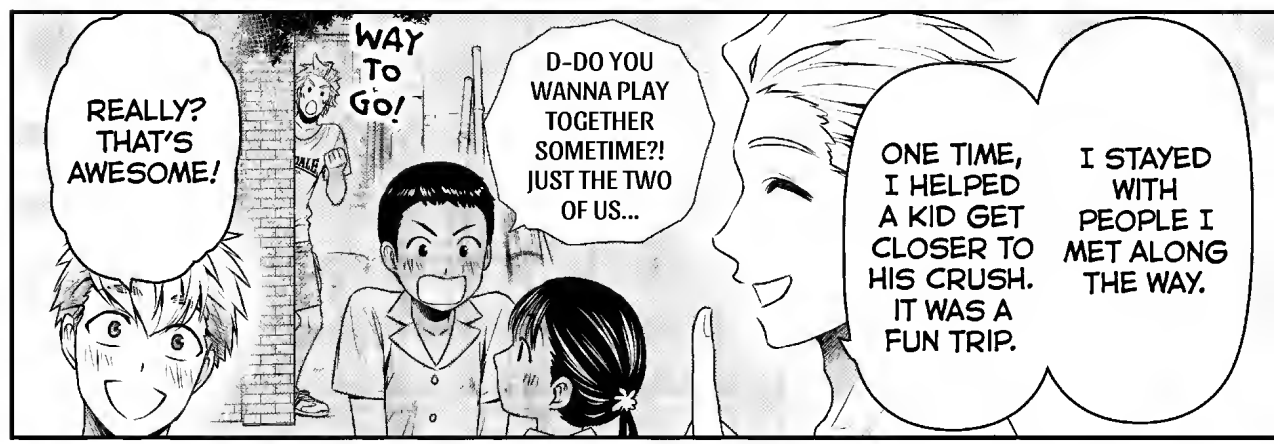
AW, C'MON.
YOUR GOOD NEWS CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME, NATSUO-KUN.
DON'T YOU THINK ...
...IT WAS ABOUT TIME WE GOT TOGETHER FOR A MINI CLASS REUNION?

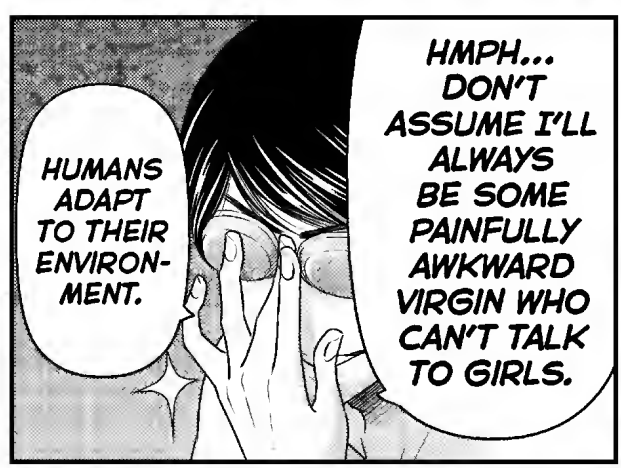
CHAPTER 177: TRYING TO CHANGE

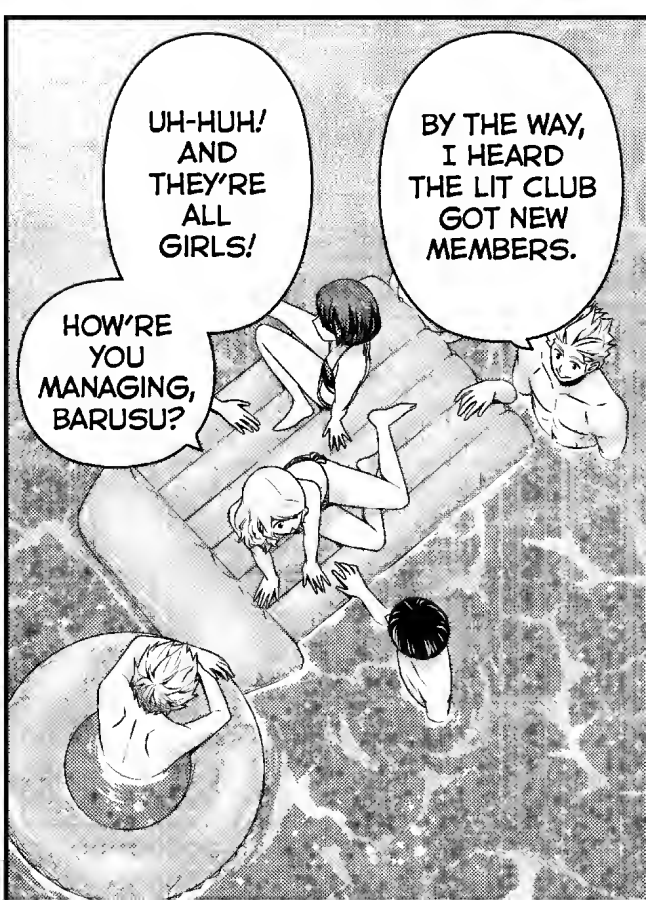
KEI SASUGA

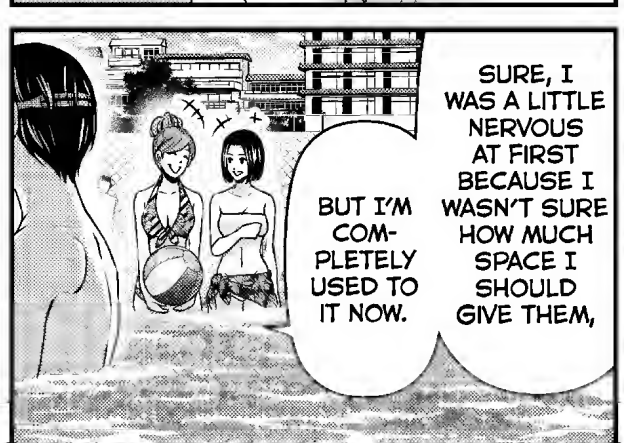
H-HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, MATSUKAWA-KUN? YOU WENT BACK-PACKING OVERSEAS, RIGHT?
UH-HUH.
I TOURED FROM VIETNAM TO MALAYSIA.

I JUST FEEL SO LAME COMPARED TO THE STYLISH GIRLS AT COLLEGE...
MY CLOTHES WERE PRETTY WHATEVER WHEN I RAN INTO KIRIYA-SENSEI AT WORK A WHILE BACK, TOO...
SO, SHE'S STILL CRAZY FOR SENSEI.


I STAYED WITH PEOPLE I MET ALONG THE WAY.
ONE TIME, I HELPED A KID GET CLOSER TO HIS CRUSH. IT WAS A FUN TRIP.
D-DO YOU WANNA PLAY TOGETHER SOMETIME?! JUST THE TWO OF US...
WAY TO GO!
REALLY? THAT'S AWESOME!


HMPH... DON'T ASSUME I'LL ALWAYS BE SOME PAINFULLY AWKWARD VIRGIN WHO CAN'T TALK TO GIRLS.
HUMANS ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIRON-MENT.


BY THE WAY, I HEARD THE LIT CLUB GOT NEW MEMBERS.
UH-HUH! AND THEY'RE ALL GIRLS!
HOW'RE YOU MANAGING, BARUSU?


SURE, I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS AT FIRST BECAUSE I WASN'T SURE HOW MUCH SPACE I SHOULD GIVE THEM,
BUT I'M COM-PLETELY USED TO IT NOW.

NO ONE WOULD SAY I'M NOT GOOD WITH WOMEN...
AND I DON'T GET SELF-CONSCIOUS AROUND THEM ANY-MORE.
I CAN SPEAK TO THEM FRANKLY AS AN UPPER-CLASS-MAN,
...AS A HEALTHY YOUNG MAN.
TAK
YOU'RE MISTAKEN. THIS IS MERELY PROPER ETIQUETTE ...
YOUR VIRGINITY'S SHOWING...
SHE'S BASICALLY LIKE A SISTER TO ME AT THIS POINT...
BESIDES, I'VE KNOWN KABASAWA SINCE WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YOU KNOW.
I... I NEVER SAID I WANTED A GIRL-FRIEND.
SPSH
SPSH
SORRY I'M LATE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HEY... WHAT ABOUT FUMIN?
IF YOU WANT A GIRLFRIEND, WHY DON'T YOU TRY GOING OUT WITH HER?

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, EH, BARUSU?
NO RUSH!
HUH? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP, SEMPAI.
MY LOCKER KEY GOT STUCK...
OHH, NOTHING. IT'S A SE...
ゆさっ JUG
ゆさっ JUG
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
バシャ SPSH
バシャ SPSH
...CRET.
ING
BOIL
FWIP
PSHH

KYAAAAH!
OHHH? I THOUGHT YOU ONLY SAW HER AS A SISTER, BARUSU?
ぷるるん
THAT WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF MY CONTROL.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
BEATS ME. I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT WITH ME, YOU KNOW.
WHY DON'T YOU GO HAVE FUN WITH THE OTHERS?
AH, IT'S FINE. I FELT LIKE TAKING A BREAK, ANYWAY.
BESIDES...
...I WANTED A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU.

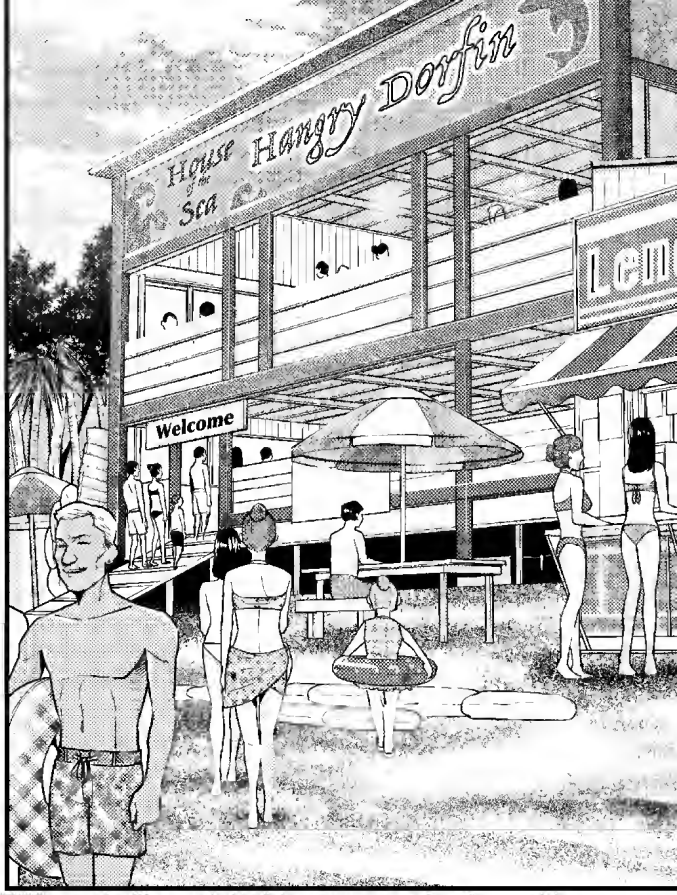
...
HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING UP WITH YOUR WRITING?
YES. I'VE BEEN HAVING THE EDITOR YOU INTRODUCED ME TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY WORK.
AT THE MOMENT, I'M WRITING ON THE SIDE WHILE WORKING ON THE CLUB ANTHOLOGY.
I SEE. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
SHE'S ONLY FIFTEEN, AND HER FIRST BOOK CAME OUT LAST MONTH.
IT'S BEEN GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION, PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE'S SO YOUNG...
HEY, SHIBASAKI.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SUZUKO AZAMINA?
JOLT
OF COURSE I'VE HEARD OF HER...
SHE'S A COLOSSAL THORN IN MY SIDE!
SHE ALWAYS TAKES FIRST PLACE IN EVERY LITERARY CONTEST I ENTER ...
...WHILE I END UP WITH SECOND OR A MEASLY HONORABLE MENTION!

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES SHE'S LEFT A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH!
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS ALREADY FAMOUS ON THE STUDENT COMPETITION SIDE OF THINGS.
AND NOW, TO THINK SHE'S MAKING HER BOOK DEBUT IN HIGH SCHOOL...!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE RELEASING A BOOK, TOO, AREN'T YOU, SEMPAI? HOW NICE.
NOTH-ING'S SET IN STONE YET...
BUT NOW THAT IT MIGHT BE HAPPEN-ING...
...I'M STARTING TO FEEL THE PRES-SURE.
DON'T GET ME WRONG. I'M STOKED TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL I'VE BEEN WORKING TOWARD ALL THIS TIME...
...BUT PART OF ME'S ALSO SCARED.
WHEN I SEE PRODIGIES LIKE AZAMINA-SAN,
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF I CAN REALLY PRODUCE THE SAME RESULTS.
EVEN IF I DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO WRITE SOMETHING GREAT,
WHAT IF IT JUST ENDS UP BEING PASSED OVER AS JUST ANOTHER AVERAGE STORY?
IT'S SCARY TO THINK THAT I MIGHT END UP DISAP-POINTING EVERYONE ...
...WHO HAD SUCH HIGH HOPES FOR ME.

...
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THERE'S NO REASON ANYONE COULDN'T BEAT A SO-CALLED "PRODIGY."
PRODIGY'S A CONVENIENT WORD, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU CAN USE IT AS AN EXCUSE WHEN YOU LOSE.
BIT
WHAT AN ENVIABLE DILEMMA.
OH, REALLY?
AHH
SORRY ...
WELL, IT'S TRUE.
I SEE YOU'RE STILL AS CONFIDENT AS EVER ...
SURPASSING WHO YOU WERE YESTERDAY IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS, AFTER ALL.
AND CHANNEL THOSE FEELINGS INTO YOUR WRITING,
AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THAT YOU WANT TO WRITE STORIES THAT WILL PULL PEOPLE IN AND TAKE THEIR BREATH AWAY,
AGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN'T CLOSE THE GAP IN SKILL IF YOU TRY.
THEN YOU'LL IMPROVE DAY BY DAY, SIMPLE AS THAT.

AND ANOTHER THING— PLEASE DON'T ACT SO PATHETIC, SEMPAI.
YOU'RE THE "HARD WORKER" ...
...I WAS FORCED TO ACKNOWL-EDGE.
HUH... Y'KNOW, THAT FRESH PERSPEC-TIVE HITS PRETTY CLOSE TO HOME.
UGH...!
WHAT ARE YOU, AN OLD FOGY?
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU LOSE TO A "PRODIGY."
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVE TO WORK HARD SO I CAN MAKE YOU JEALOUS OF MY SUCCESS!
HUH?
IN YOUR DREAMS. I'M GOING TO BLOW PAST YOU AT MACH SPEED.
I HAVE MORE ROOM TO GROW, AFTER ALL.
HEY, GUYS! LET'S GO GET SOME LUNCH!

IT'S PRETTY PACKED.
SHOULD WE COME BACK LATER?
OH!
I SEE SOME SEATS OPEN!


House of the Sea Hangry Dorfin
Welcome

WHERE?

F-F-FUJII-KUN?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
TALK ABOUT A COINCI-DENCE.
I'M HERE WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS.

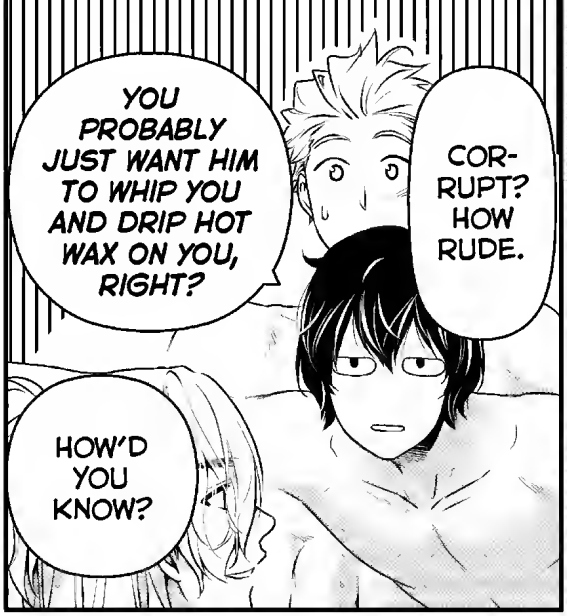
HUH ...?
SERIZAWA? KUSANAGI-SAN?!

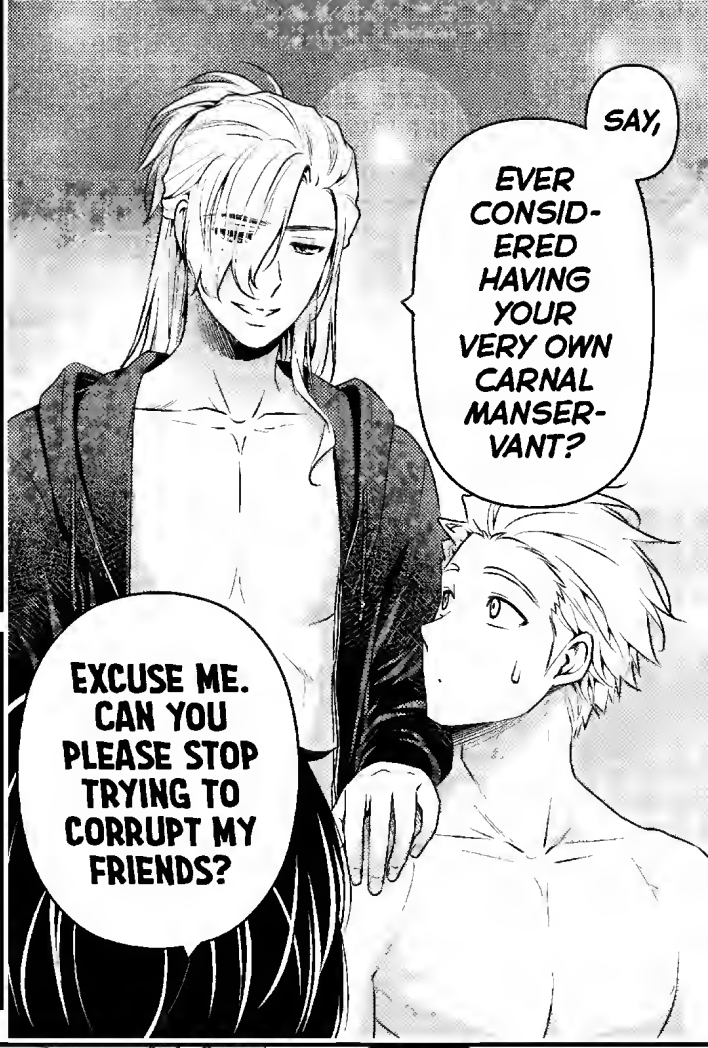
YOU KNOW THEM, NAT-CHAN?
OH! YOU WERE IN NATSUO-KUN'S PLAY!
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT! COOL!

THE AMATEUR PERFOR-MANCE WAS AMAZING!
TH-THANK YOU.
AW, MAN. I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN IT.
HEY-SAWA
YOU TWO AREN'T AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS ANYMORE, RIGHT?
NAH, WE'RE COOL NOW.
BZZT
UM...
MY NAME IS MIYABI SERIZAWA.
I'M IN THE SAME CLUB AS FUJII-KUN.
I'M RUI TACHI-BANA.
LIKE-WISE. I'M YUKA KUSA-NAGI.
MOMO KASHI-WABARA!
I'M ALEX. YOU CAN CALL ME AL.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU GUYS WHILE YOU'RE EATING.
OH, NO. IT'S FINE ...
I'M SCOLD-ING YOU ON THE INSIDE.
MY BAD...
HEY, SHIBASAKI. WHEN WE WENT TO SEE THE PLAY WITH THE LIT CLUB...
...DIDN'T YOU SAY THE LEAD'S PERFOR-MANCE BLEW YOU AWAY?
WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER?
HUH ?!

I,
UM...
UHH...
I-
IT WAS AMAZING...
LIKE, REAL-LY...
AND YOU TRY TO SAY YOU'RE COMFORT-ABLE AROUND WOMEN?
WELL, WHO WOULDN'T BE NERVOUS AROUND A PRETTY GIRL THEY JUST MET?!
WELL, I GUESS SO.
はHAはHAはHAっ
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
I SPY...
TICKLE こしょ
...A FAMILIAR FACE.
こしょ TICKLE
TICKLE こしょ
HM?
SHOULDER

FWIP
NARA-SAN!
EVERY-ONE...!
OH!
HEY, FUJII-KUN!
FANCY MEETING YOU GUYS HERE.
DON'T YOU PEOPLE HAVE ANY FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB?
NOT ME, REALLY.
YES, I DO!
WE JUST SO HAPPENED TO COME AS A GROUP TODAY!
I'M HERE WITH MY CLUB FRIENDS FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
WE RAN INTO SERIZAWA AND KUSANAGI BY COINCI-DENCE.
OH, YEAH?
FROM HIGH SCHOOL, HUH?
HMM ...


YOU PROBABLY JUST WANT HIM TO WHIP YOU AND DRIP HOT WAX ON YOU, RIGHT?
COR-RUPT? HOW RUDE.
HOW'D YOU KNOW?


SAY,
EVER CONSID-ERED HAVING YOUR VERY OWN CARNAL MANSER-VANT?
EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU PLEASE STOP TRYING TO CORRUPT MY FRIENDS?

WHO SAID YOU COULD JOIN US, ANYWAY?
C'MON. THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER SEATS. WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

YO, FUJII. HOOK A BRO UP!
YOUR FRIENDS ARE A BUNCH OF BABES!
SQUEEZE

OH, YEAH. WE WERE PLAYING VOLLEYBALL OVER THERE.
CARE TO JOIN US?

S-SORRY! I HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE!
WHAT?! YOU DO?!
TOO BAD!
TCH

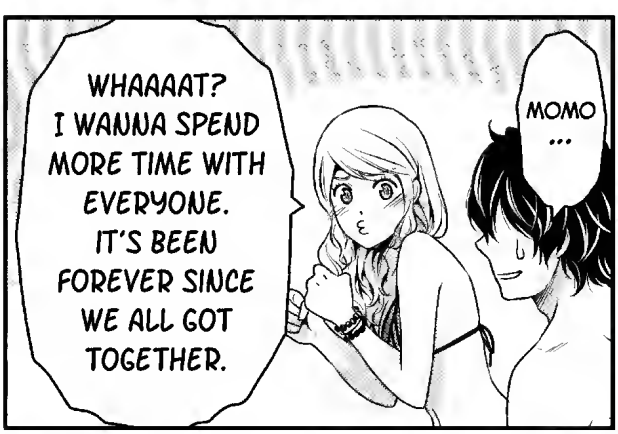
ALMOST EVERY-ONE'S TAKEN ALREADY.
UHH.
I THINK THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SINGLE IS...
...KABA-SAWA-SAN?

YOU CAN GET BRAS FOR WAY CHEAPER IF YOU IMPORT THEM.
REALLY?!

WE SHOULD PROBABLY PACK UP.

YOU GUYS CAN CRASH WITH US IF YOU WANT.
MORE PEOPLE FROM THE CLUB WERE SUPPOSED TO COME, BUT THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT.
WE ACTUALLY RENTED A BUN-GALOW NEARBY.

WELL, YEAH ...
YOU GUYS ARE JUST HERE FOR THE DAY?


WHAAAAT? I WANNA SPEND MORE TIME WITH EVERYONE. IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE WE ALL GOT TOGETHER.
MOMO ...

I'M IN! I WANNA STAY!
OH, OH, OH!
HUH? WELL, DIDN'T REALLY PLAN ON SPEND-ING THE NIGHT...

No problem here!
SURE!
I'M IN IF YOU GUYS ARE.
I'M FINE WITH STAYING THE NIGHT.

I-
I CAN STAY, TOO!
THEN COUNT ME IN.
WELL, ALL RIGHT ...
I GUESS WE'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER.
THANK YOU, BUT I'LL PASS.
IS THAT EVERYONE, THEN?
AWW! YOU'RE LEAVING, BARUSU?
OH...
THAT SUCKS.
I DIDN'T TELL MY FAMILY I'D BE SPEND-ING THE NIGHT.
I DON'T WANT THEM TO WORRY.
...
GUYS LIKE HIM ARE DENSE AS ROCKS.

I DON'T THINK BARUSU HAS EVER HAD A GIRL BE INTERESTED IN HIM BEFORE.
HE PROBABLY WON'T GET THE HINT UNLESS YOU SPELL IT OUT FOR HIM.
IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE...
...ONE OF THE YOUNGER GIRLS MIGHT STEAL HIM FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE, FUMIN.
GRAB
ぱっ
?!
JUST ...
...CALL HOME AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE STAYING.
SINCE WE'RE HERE AND ALL,
WE SHOULD ...
...SPEND THE NIGHT.